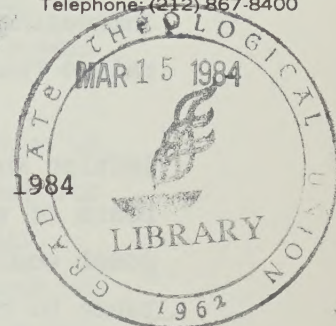


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PRESIDING BISHOP SENDSTEAM TO CENTRAL AMERICA

DPS 84012

NEW YORK (DPS, Feb. 2) -- Following a firsthand look at the situation in Central America, Presiding Bishop John M. Allin has appointed a team of Episcopal Church Center staff officers to make a pastoral and evaluation visit to that tension-filled region.

The team is charged with making pastoral visits with clergy and laity, seeking out a cross-section of the population and exploring possible new initiatives in ministry. They will share their results with a Central American Task Force when they return.

The Presiding Bishop was in Panama, Honduras and Nicaragua for ten days in late January during which time he was chief consecrator for the new bishops of Panama (the Rt. Rev. James Ottley) and Honduras, (the Rt. Rev. Leo Frade). He used the trip to seek out church and political leaders in all three countries, observe the conditions, and inquire about the Church's role in meeting the needs of the region.

DPS 84012/2

Although the U.S. State Department has begun pressing the government of El Salvador to act against the right-wing death squads -- and many observers feel that those tensions have abated, at least -- there is growing evidence that food supplies are being misdirected and increasing despair over the state of the Salvadoran army. That latter raises fears of ever-greater U.S. military involvement in the area.

Meanwhile, an election campaign in El Salvador has pitted leftist and rightist forces against one another strongly enough to raise fears of post-election disruptions. Finally, the new U.S. budget proposal would dramatically increase both military and non-military assistance to the region.

Throughout Central America, the Christian leaders are seen as identifying strongly with the poor and peasant classes and are often in conflict with the governments because of their legal assistance and land reform advocacy and their insistence on an open and unfettered ministry. Because the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches are the only religious bodies with work in all parts of the region, their clergy, religious and laity have borne the brunt of repression.

That repression has fallen most heavily on Roman Catholics who have seen an archbishop, four American Maryknoll sisters, and countless clergy and laity murdered in El Salvador. In Nicaragua, while a Roman Catholic priest serves in the cabinet, another was forced to flee recently when the Miskito Indians among whom he ministered came under heavy government attack.

In the Episcopal Church, Dr. Rosa Cisneros, a lawyer and social activist, was murdered in El Salvador, apparently in death squad retaliation for her work with a Church-run legal assistance program, her work in family planning, and her advocacy for women. Seven peasants, whose only crime appears to have been living on a Church-run model farm, were brutally murdered and mutilated. Hundreds fled the farm.

In Nicaragua, four Episcopalians -- clergy and laity -- have been arrested and later released. All minister in the Atlantic coast area where the Miskito indians have been accused of "separatist" tendencies by the Sandinista regime.

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The civil wars spread disorder throughout the area. A recent tour of Belize by the Anglican Council of North America and the Caribbean also had pointed to severe refugee problems in that tiny country with few resources. The Council, the synod of Province IX and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church agreed in November that new steps were needed to address both the refugee crisis and the events which caused it.

The work Allin set in motion after his visit is partly in response to that, but also reflects a frustration of the Church that its ministry is being taken too lightly by all the concerned governments.

Since 1980, Allin, the primates of Canada and the Church of England and the House of Bishops have pressed repeatedly through diplomatic and humanitarian channels for concrete action against the violence in Central America.

The team that will visit Central America in March consists of: The Rev. Patrick Mauney, overseas ministries coordinator; Marion Dawson, assistant director for migration affairs; Sonia J. Francis, director, radio, tv and audio visuals; The Rev. Herbert Arrunategui, staff officer for Hispanic ministries; and The Rev. Charles A. Cesar-etti, public issues staff officer. They will be joined by the Rev. Sergio Carranza, provincial secretary and the Rev. Ricardo Potter, provincial Executive Council member.

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TWO NEW JOURNALS AID

DIVERSE MINISTRIES

DPS 84013

NEW YORK (Feb. 2) -- Two new journals have begun publication in response to requests from the General Convention and the Anglican Communion. Jubilee addresses the social ministries of the Episcopal Church while Anglicanos explores the mission in Spanish and Portuguese countries.

Both quarterly publications made their debut in January.

In an editor's note introducing Jubilee, Mabel Allen pointed out that the magazine was the result of the 1982 Convention's affirmation of the concept of a jubilee ministry emphasis on meeting human needs and building a just society. The concept is based on the decree in Leviticus 25 of a Year of Jubilee and its development through Scripture, especially the prophecy of Isaiah and Christ's identification with it in Luke 4:18-19.

Allen said that Jubilee -- which was specifically mandated by the Convention -- was designed as a vehicle to help increase awareness of the problems of poverty and injustice and of the programs that meet these needs, especially the Jubilee Centers that provide service and advocacy programs in a wide variety of communities and settings. Each issue will include a theological reflection on the issues by the Rev. John Kater.

The first issue also explores the work of the Jubilee Centers in Lewistown, Penna. and Durham, N.C.; looks into advocacy and ecumenical energy cooperatives; examines Richard Harmon's efforts to get ministry and workplace thinking together; reprints Dr. Allan Parrent's address to the Church's Peace Conference: "Making Distinctions about Making Peace;" and asks about Episcopalians' adversary role with their Church.

Although the second publication takes an equally eclectic view, its origins and audience are quite different.

Anglicanos is a Spanish language 16-page mission newsletter that grew out of long unmet need in the Anglican communion, according to the Rev. Onell A. Soto, mission information officer at the Church Center and editor of the new venture. "It is an answer to many requests for a publication on the missionary work of the Anglican Communion," he ex-

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plained, especially for people in Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries who have often felt isolated from the rest of the Communion. "I pray that Anglicanos will fill that gap and serve as a link among Anglicans and other Christians," he added.

The first issue features an interview with Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie and comments by Canon Samuel Van Culin, secretary general of the Anglican Consultative Council. Runcie's comments on Christian unity are followed by articles on the Hispanic presence in the United States; the new Anglican Province of the Southern Cone in South America and the missionary characteristics of the Church in Chile. It also carries a meditation on prayer by a Salvadoran priest, the Rev. Luis Serrano and a photograph feature on work in Guatemala and many shorter news items.

Anglicanos is being produced in cooperation with the Churches in Latin America, Spain and Portugal, Canada and with the Council.

Copies of both publications are available from the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017.

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DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE/ Episcopal Church Center 212/867-8400

NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

PAYS OFF DEBT

DPS 84014

WASHINGTON, D.C. (DPS, Feb. 2) — During a period of financial uncertainty, inflation and soaring interest rates, Washington Cathedral has repaid the enormous construction debt incurred in the mid-1970's.

With a final payment of \$250,000 made Jan. 25 to the Riggs Bank and National Savings and Trust Company, the cathedral has completely paid off a debt which at its peak in 1977 reached \$7.5 million. A Capital Campaign, conducted from 1979 to 1982, was successful beyond the hopes of the leadership, raising a total of \$16.5 million in gifts and pledges. To date \$15 million has been received, of which \$10 million has gone to pay debt principal and interest, \$3 million to construction, \$1.5 million to endowment and \$500,000 to campaign expenses.

The last bank payment, almost two years ahead of schedule, is viewed as a tribute to the thousands of cathedral supporters who rallied to its need with gifts and pledges and to the hundreds of volunteers who made the campaign successful. Close to 5,000 persons contributed to the capital campaign during the three and a half years it was in progress.

Present at the brief ceremony in the Riggs Bank boardroom, in addition to Bishop John T. Walker and Provost Charles A. Perry, were campaign co-chairmen Huntingdon Harris and Canon Charles Martin, together with members of the Cathedral Chapter and Joe L. Allbritton, chairman of Riggs Bank board of directors and Joseph Riley, chairman of the savings board. Walker thanked the two banks for the generous way they had supported the cathedral when it needed help.

"At times like these," said Walker at the brief ceremony, "I hark back to my predecessor, Bishop Henry Yates Satterlee. In this instance it is most appropriate for in 1905 Satterlee also met in the boardroom of Riggs Bank to pay off the final loan which had secured the loan on which the cathedral was to be built. At that time, Satterlee wrote in his journal, 'No one can ever appreciate what it is to be delivered from the burden. I feel like one released from prison.' I think

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DPS 84014/2

that I can truthfully say that I -- the sixth bishop of Washington -- share those feelings with the first bishop. He spoke of his wonder at how he had the courage to face the financial problem and added that it could only have been accomplished through 'God's grace.'"

The Capital Campaign's success permitted resumption of construction of the Pilgrim Observation Gallery. It was completed in 1982 and opened to the public. Since then, one story of the twin west towers has been built and plans are in hand to continue construction in the spring of 1984.

"Building a cathedral has been called an act of optimism", Perry said. "We have been engaged in an act of optimism as we successfully completed the campaign, constructed the gallery and increased the cathedral's endowment."

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(EDITORS: The enclosed photograph of the National Cathedral (84014) shows the newly-completed Pilgrim's Gallery at left topped by the crane.)

DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE/ Episcopal Church Center 212/867-8400

37 BAPTISMS CAP

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

DPS 84015

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (DPS, Feb. 2) -- On Jan. 8, 42 persons, 37 of them Vietnamese "boat people", were baptized at St. Anselm's of Canterbury Episcopal Church here.

The baptism was the culmination of three years of catechesis under the leadership of Dr. Duc Xuan Nguyen, chaplain to St. Anselm's Refugee Center and a candidate for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church.

The congregation of St. Anselm's provided sponsors for the 37 Vietnamese, and in so doing marked a new dimension in the concept of refugee sponsorship .

Oldest among the new Christians is a 70-year old man who was baptized with three of his grandsons. His daughter, mother of the three boys, had been urging her father to be baptized for 20 years.

The newly baptized comprise the core of the Vietnamese congregation being formed under the leadership of Duc in conjunction with St. Anselm's and the Diocese of Los Angeles, the first such congregation in the Anglican Communion.

The service was in both English and Vietnamese. Duc has prepared a Vietnamese translation of the Book of Common Prayer's Baptismal Office, (printed facing the English language version), which is now being tested nationwide.

In his sermon the rector, the Rev. M. Fletcher Davis noted that: "1984 is a time of new beginnings for St. Anselm's" which will include the formation of the new congregation, ordination of a new priest, the expansion of the parish's existing facilities to house the new congregation, and the search for a new rector.

"The waters of baptism always recall the sacred history of the Israelites fleeing political persecution through the waters of adversity into the promised land", Davis said. "This baptism assumed enriched associations because the Vietnamese candidates have fled political persecution through the adverse waters of the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand where members of their families perished en route to their promised land."

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SEMINARIANS EXPLORE

LAY VOCATIONS

DPS 84016

WASHINGTON, (DPS, Feb. 2) -- The second national conference of the Network of Seminarians with Lay Vocations, attended by 30 student and faculty representatives from nine Episcopal seminaries, was held Jan. 13-15 at the College of Preachers.

Formed four years ago by the Education for Mission and Ministry Unit at the Episcopal Church Center, the Network of Seminarians with Lay Vocations provides support for seminarians who do not intend ordination and affirms the value of seminary education for lay people.

"A Celebration of the Ministry of the Laity," the conference theme was set by keynoter Dr. Marianne H. Micks, professor of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary who asked seminarians to examine and share the comic side of their ministries and the work of saints whose examples provide roots for their ministries.

Workshops were held -- Ministry in the Church, Ministry in the World, Seminary Shaping, and Exploring Possible Ministries -- and Dr. Frances M. Young, who organized the Office of Lay Ministry at the Church Center, affirmed and gave vision to the ministries of lay seminary graduates in a sermon preached at the closing Eucharist. Katherine Austin of General Theological Seminary, chairwoman of the network steering committee, convened the meeting. The Rev. John T. Docker, coordinator for ministry development, was the celebrant at the closing Eucharist.

Comments from seminarians who participated included: "I can't tell you how much I enjoyed this meeting. It gave me a lot of insight into the problems of the lay professional in church work. " "I feel encouraged about the future...and look forward to some changes (in seminaries) that will make a difference in ministry."

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DRAFT COUNSELING

CONFERENCE PLANNED

DPS 84017

NEW YORK (DPS, Feb. 2) -- "The Episcopal Church and Military Service: Our Ministry with Young People" is the title of a conference to be held May 4-6 at the Kanuga Conference Center near Hendersonville, N.C. The conference is intended to aid those in the Church involved with counseling young people on military service-related issues.

Bobbie Bevill, the Church Center's Youth Ministries Coordinator and a member of the conference's design committee, said, "We have a responsibility to do more to equip people to counsel kids around these issues. We need to be present to help them through the decision-making process."

There will be a keynote address, and workshop topics will include: Legal Ramifications of Registration and Non-Registration; the Church's Stand: History and Theology; Military Service Today: What does it Mean?; and Minorities and Military Service. Different counseling techniques will be discussed, and the conference will serve to introduce three new resource packets on conscientious objector registration, what to expect if one enlists, and decision-making around military service issues.

The May conference grows specifically out of 1982 General Convention resolutions regarding conscientious objection, one of which acknowledged "this Church's ministry to provide pastoral counseling for young persons now faced with draft registration and a possible resumption of the draft" and called on the Executive Council "to provide adequate resources to implement and maintain an on-going program of draft counseling, with a particular emphasis on reaching poor and minority youth in urban areas."

There are 100 places available for those wishing to attend the conference, and the fee is \$65.00. For further information, contact Bevill at the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017; phone number: (212) 867-8400, ext. 263.

A follow-up conference in the early fall will address the theological and philosophical questions of the relationship between the Church and the military and delve deeper into the Church-State relationship.

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JANET VETTER NAMED

DEPUTY NEWS DIRECTOR

DPS 84018

NEW YORK, (DPS, Feb. 2) -- Janet E. Vetter, a member of the Church Center staff for seven years, has been promoted to the post of deputy news director by Presiding Bishop John M. Allin.

As deputy, she shares with the news director, the Rev. William D. Dearnaley, the writing, editing and production of the Diocesan Press Service and assists in running the news operations at meetings of the General Convention, the House of Bishops, the Executive Council and other major national meetings of the Episcopal Church. The Press Office is also responsible for answering most of the general information inquiries that come to the Church Center.

The unit is part of the Office of Communication at the Center and Vetter will take on general duties in developing the various news and information papers that support the general church program. She will have primary responsibility for assisting the diocesan editors and working with them to develop stories on the work of the Church throughout the country.

"I'm extremely pleased that Miss Vetter could join our office," Dearnaley said. "Her research work is excellent and her long experience with the Hunger network will make her a valuable resource to the editors. I believe that we will be able to meet requests much more thoroughly and quickly now than we have been able to do this last year. Even more, we will be able to develop a regular method of surveying the dioceses and finding programs that are worth sharing."

Vetter joined the Church Center staff in late 1976 as secretary in the Hunger Office. Working first with the Rev. Charles A. Cesaretti and then with his successor, Dr. David Crean, she has had a major role in the growth and effectiveness of the Hunger network. She also has served as assistant editor, staff writer and layout editor for the Hunger Networker which is now mailed to more than 5000 people.

A native New Yorker, she is an honors graduate of Hunter College. She is a former vestry member of Church of the Intercession, New York, where she is active in scholarship, hunger education, and food pantry programs.

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PORTUGUESE CHURCHES

TEST PARTNERSHIP

DPS 84019

EASTON (Feb. 2) -- Bishops of the three Portuguese speaking churches of the Anglican Communion met for the first time in Porto Alegre, Brazil last year. Acting as hosts for the three-day meeting, the six Bishops of the Igreja Episcopal do Brasil (The Episcopal Church of Brazil) were joined by the Rt. Rev. Fernando da Luz Soares of the Lusitanian Church, Portugal, and the Rt. Rev. Dinis Sengulane, Diocese of Libombos, Mozambique.

Also in attendance was the Rt. Rev. Elliott Sorge, formerly bishop of South-Central Brazil and now the Diocese of Easton, who represented the Education for Mission and Ministry Unit of the Episcopal Church.

The overall purpose of the gathering was to strengthen the role of each as partners in mission. The first specific task addressed was the use of the Church School Missionary Offering of 1983 which had been designated for Christian Education in the Igreja Episcopal do Brasil. The Brazilian Church hoped to develop some materials in Portuguese which could be used by the three sister churches.

The Christian Education Committee of the Brazilian Church presented a display of educational materials already available in Portuguese. Each of the Churches then presented what their immediate and long term needs are in the area of education.

It became apparent as each presentation was made that it was going to be very difficult to have one project which would serve each of the Churches. Besides the differences that exist in the language as it is written in Brazil and Portugal there is the further difficulty of importing educational materials into Mozambique, a Marxist country. The high importation fees in Portugal also limit the work.

A group was asked to prepare a list of projects that would serve each of the Churches. The following projects were presented:

● An annotated list of books for Christian Education on different levels: church school, youth, confirmation, leadership training and formation of ministers, lay and ordained.

DPS 84019/2

● A series of basic texts on Anglicanism similar to the Church's Teaching Series of the USA.

● A series of small books or pamphlets which would serve as primers or "First Steps for New Converts."

● A commission was formed and given the responsibility of making a decision on the requests as presented by the Churches and as funds allow.

During meetings a great concern was raised about the responsibility and opportunity of being partners with other sister churches of the Anglican Communion where missionary work in Portuguese is needed. Such cities as Newark, Fall River and Los Angeles were identified as having large concentrations of immigrants from Portugal, as well as Montreal in Canada.

The Brazilian Church committed itself to assist the Lusitanian Church by sending a Brazilian priest to work in Portugal. It further agreed to be partners with the Diocese of Libombos in a project of evangelism.

In the closing session, a vote of thanks was extended to Sorge for his assistance. He was asked to convey to the World Mission Unit unit of the Episcopal Church their gratitude for the financial assistance for travel that made the meeting possible and to the Executive Council for designating the offering to them of the Church School Missionary Offering.

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